

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
Forty-second Assembly District



*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 10, 2005

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### **Koretz Introduces Legislation requiring microstamping--new ballistic fingerprinting technology--for new handguns**

Sacramento- Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) announced today the introduction of AB 352, a bill that would enable law enforcement to use new advances in ballistic technology to help solve gun crimes.

AB 352 would require that all new semiautomatic handguns sold in California after January 1, 2007 be equipped with microstamping – a new technology that would allow law enforcement to positively link used cartridge cases recovered at crime scenes to the firearms and criminals that fired them.

"With gun violence at an epidemic level in the state, killing or wounding nearly 10,000 Californians each year, law enforcement needs every tool available to solve gun crime quickly," said Koretz. "I believe that microstamping will put California in the forefront in crime solving technology. I can not imagine anyone who could be opposed to this cutting edge technology."

Unlike current ballistic technology which matches the accidental markings made by the interior of a firearm onto bullets and cartridge cases, microstamping uses *intentional* markings, such as a serial number, which is inserted on the firing pin of a gun and transferred directly onto a cartridge upon discharge.

This next generation of ballistic identification technology would enable law enforcement to immediately read the identifying microscopic serial numbers from spent shell casings and link the evidence to the specific gun that fired the round. Then, using California's current handgun database, the owner of the gun can be identified.

"Finding the gun is a critical lead for law enforcement officers investigating a shooting," said Joshua Horwitz, Executive Director of the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. "Moreover, microstamping technology does not require any new databases or additional information from gun purchasers and will be virtually cost free for law enforcement."

The new microstamping technology was highlighted in a report published last year by the Educational Fund To Stop Gun Violence entitled *Cracking the Case: The Crime-Solving Promise*

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of *Ballistic Identification*, available at [www.findthegun.com](http://www.findthegun.com). The in-depth report details how microstamping technology can help law enforcement solve gun crimes.

"With microstamping required in all new semiautomatic handguns sold in state, this emerging technology will help make Californians safer," added Koretz.

The bill will be likely heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee in late March or early April.

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